

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 07483 011339Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO USDEL SECRETARY NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8518

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 7483

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS), PBOR, IS, US

SUBJECT: ISRAELI CABINET CONSIDERATION OF GENEVA CONFERENCE WORKING  
PAPER

REF: SECTO 10002

1. I SPOKE TO EVRON SATURDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 1, AND STRONGLY  
URGED HIM TO TRY TO PRECLUDE BEGIN'S GIVING WORKING PAPER  
TO CABINET ON SUNDAY, AS INSTRUCTED IN PARA 6 OF REFTEL.  
EVRON SAID DAYAN HAD ALREADY MADE THIS RECOMMENDATION  
STRONGLY ON BASIS OF HIS MEETING WITH SECRETARY FRIDAY.

2. EVRON WILL BE MEETING WITH BEGIN THIS EVENING AT  
HOSPITAL AND WILL RUGE THIS COURSE OF ACTION. (INCI-  
DENTALLY, HE SAYS THAT BEGIN IS OBVIOUSLY DOING  
VERY WELL AND EVEN TALKING ABOUT LEAVING HOSPITAL TONIGHT  
TO ATTEND A PARTY. IT NOW SEEMS CLEAR THAT HIS PROBLEM  
WAS INDEED ONLY ONE OF EXHAUSTION.)

3. EVRON CONFIRMED WHAT I HAD INFERRED FROM MY MEETING YESTERDAY  
WITH BEGIN ABOUT BEGIN'S INTENDED HANDLING OF OUR WORKING PAPER.  
IMMEDIATELY AFTER

OUR MEETING YESTERDAY MORNING, HE AND EVRON BRIEFED

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 TEL AV 07483 011339Z

THE CABINET SUBCOMMITTEE ON SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
COMPOSED OF WEIZMAN, SHARON, HURVITZ, BURG, EHRLICH  
(CURRENTLY IN U.S.) AND DAYAN (REPRESENTED BY EVRON).  
THEY BOTH CAUTIONED GROUP ABOUT NEED FOR SECRECY ON  
THIS U.S. WORKING PAPER, AND EVRON IS CONFIDENT IT WILL  
BE MAINTAINED IN LIGHT OF OTHER SENSITIVE SUBJECTS THIS  
COMMITTEE DISCUSSES WHICH HAVE NOT LEAKED. BEGIN'S

PLAN HAD BEEN TO TAKE ISSUE BEFORE FULL CABINET TOMORROW, AS HE SAID CLEARLY TO ME YESTERDAY MORNING. HOWEVER, EVRON BELIEVES HE MAY WELL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EXCUSE FURNISHED BY HIS INDISPOSITION AND BY FACT THAT MEYER WEISGAL'S FUNERAL TOMORROW MORNING WILL BE ATTENDED BY MOST, IF NOT ALL, OF CABINET TO DEFER CABINET MEETING FOR A DAY OR TWO.

4. WHILE EVRON IS THEREFORE HOPEFUL THAT ISSUE WILL NOT COME FORMALLY BEFORE CABINET FOR TIME BEING, HE SAID THAT WE SHOULD BE UNDER NO ILLUSION ABOUT BEGIN'S OR THE SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE'S REACTION TO OUR PAPER. HE CHARACTERIZED THAT REACTION AS "REJECTION IN ITS TOTALITY". WHEN I EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT THERE WERE NOT SEVERAL ELEMENTS IN THE PAPER WHICH WERE ACCEPTABLE, SINCE THEY HAD COME ORIGINALLY FROM DAYAN'S OWN IDEAS, HE SAID THAT THE PROBLEM STEMS FROM FURTHER AMBIGUITIES IN INTERPRETATION, EVEN OF FAVORABLE ITEMS, FOLLOWING FROM THE HABIB/AHTERTON MEETING WITH DAYAN THURSDAY. HE CITED AS EXAMPLES HABIB'S REPORTED EQUIVOCATION AS TO WHETHER WHAT SEEMED TO BE CLEARLY GEOGRAPHIC SUBCOMMITTEES IN THE PAPER (E.G., ISRAEL-EGYPT OR ISRAEL-JORDAN) MIGHT EVEN INVOLVE REPRESENTATIVES FROM OTHER NATIONAL DELEGATIONS ON THE ARAB SIDE. BUT, EVRON ADMITTED, HE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED A FULLY REPORT ON LAST NIGHT'S MEETING BETWEEN DAYAN AND  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 TEL AV 07483 011339Z

THE SECRETARY WHICH COULD HAVE CLARIFIED SOME OF THESE CONCERNS.

5. FINALLY, EVRON TOOK OCCASION TO MAKE POINT THAT ISRAELI GOVERNMENT COULD NOT REMAIN SILENT VERY LONG ABOUT WORKING PAPER IF EGYPTIAN, JORDANIAN AND SYRIAN SOURCES CONTINUED TO PUT OUT INFORMATION ABOUT STATE-OF-PLAY WHICH IS INEVITABLY SEEN BY ISRAELI PUBLIC AS HIGHLY DISTURBING. I SAID THAT I WOULD TAKE HIS POINT AND WOULD MAKE SURE IT WAS UNDERSTOOD ON OUR SIDE. HE SUGGESTED THAT WE SHOULD LEAN EQUALLY ON ALL PARTIES TO PRESERVE SECRECY OF NEGOTIATIONS. THIS PARTICULAR EXCHANGE BETWEEN US WAS BASED ON A MUTUAL RECOGNITION THAT WE WERE TRYING TO "START OVER" AT THIS POINT ON THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PUBLICITY ABOUT THIS DELICATE NEGOTIATION. HE IS FULLY AWARE THAT WE "CREDIT" THE ISRAELIS WITH HAVING INITIATED THIS ROUND OF PUBLICITY BY THEIR ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CABINET DECISION LAST SUNDAY.  
LEWIS

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## Message Attributes

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